• COLORADO RIVER •

AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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Demand For Water Rapidly Increasing As All Prior Consumption Records Fall

With the demand for water to meet domestic and industrial needs steadily increasing, the area of the Metropolitan Water District and surrounding territory is this year establishing all-time records in the use of that basic necessity of life.

Take for example the city of Los Angeles. For the seven days ending July 27, the average water use in this District city amounted to 651 second feet, or 420 million gallons per dav. This is 11 per cent greater than the maximum week of 1941, and is 6 per cent higher than the previous record week which occurred during the seven days ending July 12, 1940. And the rate of water consumption bids fair to continue to increase throughout August, since for the past several months each passing week has established a new record.

That these weekly records do not merely reflect a temporary summer run on water is clearly indicated by the fact that for the year ending July 1, 1941, domestic water use in Los Angeles reached the all-time record of an average demand for 281.2 second feet. This is a 31 per cent increase compared with the depression-caused level of 1934, since which time each succeeding year has shown a marked increase over the one preceding. In fact, the increase during this seven-year period averages 2,250,000,000 gallons of water per year. The growth of the past year over the year 1940-41 exceeds the seven-year average.

The new water consumption records being established in Los Angeles and in other District areas this season is only partially due to the below normal rainfall of the past spring and winter months. The records show that eight of the past twelve months have established new water consumption records on their own account, and the other four months

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Aqueduct Completes First Operating Year

At the end of July the Metropolitan Water District completes its first year as an operating utility.

Following a three-months test period, during which time distribution facilities carefully were checked and regulated, the Colorado River Aqueduct on August 1, 1941, went on a regular operating basis. Since that date the giant water supply system has been delivering soft and filtered water to District cities when and as required.

Ever since regular water service was made available in the course of the testing period, Santa Monica has been receiving practically 100 per cent of its water supply from the aqueduct. Other District cities, including Beverly Hills, Compton, Fullerton, Anaheim, Burbank and Los Angeles, at various times, have taken portions of their water supplies from the District lines. With the exception of San Marino, which is now served

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An operator's view of the settling basins and headhouse as seen from the filter control room at the Softening and Filtration Plant on the distribution system of the Colorado River Aqueduct. A silhouette study by District Staff Photographer Walter Winzell.

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First Operating Year

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by a private water company, each of the District cities has secured one or more connections with the aqueduct distribution system.

On June 2 the area of the District was enlarged through the annexation of the Coastal Municipal Water District, an area including Laguna Beach, South Laguna, Costa Mesa and several thousand acres of unincorporated territory located south and north of Laguna Beach. Aqueduct water deliveries are to be made available to the new area as soon as the District can secure authority to obtain the materials for the necessary pipe line extensions and can complete the actual installation of the line.

In accordance with the original plans, the aqueduct, during the early days of its operation, is serving primarily as a supplemental water supply source. District cities possessing local or previously developed outside water sources which temporarily are adequate, have continued to draw upon these sources. Through established connections with the Colorado River Aqueduct distribution system, all District cities are now able to obtain all of the additional water required whenever the demand arises. In the meantime, the aqueduct serves as a great and dependable standby water source.

Foremost among consuming centers which have been assured of adequate and dependable water service through the timely completion of the Colorado River Aqueduct have been the vast military and naval establishments and the gigantic war production plants that have been created in Southern California during the past twelve months.

To these vitally important institutions, many of which otherwise would have been confronted with serious water supply problems, the great aqueduct system was completed just in time to meet a basic need.

Former Aqueduct Contractors Associated In Firm That Is To Construct Davis Dam

Clearing the way for work to go forward on the building of Davis Dam and power plant, the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation recently awarded the construction contract to the Utah Construction Co., which submitted the low bid of $18,996,392.

Located 67 miles downsteam from Boulder Dam and 80 miles upstream from Parker Dam, the new regulating and power development works is to be erected at the dam site formerly known as Bull's Head. The dam will create a storage basin with a capacity of 1,800,000 acre feet as compared with the 717,000 acre feet capacity of Lake Havasu, formed by Parker Dam, and the 32,000,000 acre feet capacity of Lake Mead behind Boulder Dam.

Maximum height of Davis Dam, which is to be an earth and rockfill structure, is to be 200 feet. It will have a crest width of 50 feet and a length of about 1600 feet.

The power house, located on the Arizona side of the river, will have five 45,000 kva generators, each driven by a 62,200 hp turbine, and is to be constructed of reinforced concrete.

Under the terms of the contract, the construction work is to be completed within 1200 days after the job has been started. It is further provided, that the Government will supply cement, reinforcing bars, pipe, tubing and all metal and rubber fittings. The contractor will furnish aggregate for concrete, earth and rock for embankment, wire and timber for use in forms and temporary structures.

The new dam has been named in honor of the late Arthur P. Davis, who was Director of the U. S. Reclamation Service about twenty years ago and during the time that Frank E. Weymouth was Chief Engineer of the Service. It was the famous Davis-Weymouth report recommending the construction of Boulder Dam which was the foundation for the necessary Congressional legislation.

Since work on Boulder Dam was launched in 1931, three other dams have been completed on the Lower Colorado River. They are Parker Dam, behind which is situated the Aqueduct Intake, Imperial Dam, which diverts water into the All American Canal, and the Headgate Dam, situated a few miles downstream from Parker Dam and serving as the diversion works and irrigating system for Indian lands in Arizona.

Associated with the Utah Construction Co. on the new Davis Dam job are other contracting firms, including Morrison-Knudsen Co., MacDonald & Kahn, J. F. Shea Co., J. H. Pomeroy & Co., Winston Bros., Raymond Concrete Pipe Co., Pacific Bridge Co., Griffith Co., and Stanley Bent. Six of these firms, including the Utah Construction Co., engaged in major construction work on various features of the Colorado River Aqueduct.

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